

English translation document
as originally submitted Dec. 21, 2005

- 1 -

IAPD Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 DEC 2005

Bearing between components of construction plant

The invention concerns a bearing between components of construction plant, particularly on the boom of excavators, loaders, cranes, etc. whereby two or more components are articulated at a bearing point, in accordance with the characteristics in the preamble of claim 1.

A very frequently encountered embodiment of such a bearing is found between the back and mid constituents of the boom of self-propelled excavators, on which one boom cylinder acts on each side, as a third component. In the applicant's own self-propelled excavator models "MH 4.5", "MH 5.5" and "MH 6.5", it embodies one of the most widespread solutions, the latter model being illustrated, for example, in the catalogue with the impression "B 459.Oe/2-0301, Printed in Germany". In this case the lower end of the back boom is mounted in a drag link on the frame of the revolving superstructure. The upper end of the upward-pointing back boom takes the form of an upward-opening fork, in which the rear area of the mid boom is accepted in said bearing, at a certain distance in front of the rear end of the mid boom, seen in the direction of movement of the self-propelled excavator, both parts being connected to each other by means of a pin.

To facilitate the swivel movement of the back boom, one end of the aforementioned hydraulic boom cylinders is mounted on the outer ends of the bearing pin and the other end is articulated to a knuckle on the frame of the revolving superstructure at a certain distance from the drag link of the back boom. Both connections may be made either by cylindrical bearings or drag bearings.

Purely for the sake of completeness, it should be mentioned in respect of the design of the boom in this area that a hydraulic adjustment cylinder, the lower end of which is mounted on a bracket on a fixed pivot on the lower part of the back boom, acts on the rear end of the mid boom to raise and lower it. The front end of the mid boom and the downstream components, seen in the direction of movement of the self-propelled excavator, need not be considered further in this context, because they are located too far away from the bearing and have no inherent connection with it.

From its centre outwards, in cross-section, the bearing itself is designed so that the two bearing points of the mid boom are in the middle of the pin, into the bores of which penetrated by the pin guide bushes are pressed. The back boom envelopes the mid boom from below and outside, and accepts the pin close to the latter's outer ends in two plain bearings, into which guide bushes are also inserted, in the vicinity of its upper edge. The two ends of the pin protruding from the plain bearings are encompassed by the bosses of the boom cylinder, in which the aforementioned cylindrical bearings or drag bearings are located. End discs or rings attached externally prevent their axial displacement on the pin.

This solution has several disadvantages, namely that the connection between the three components, the back boom, mid boom and boom cylinder by means of the pin must accept the forces from all the components on its own in this embodiment, as a result of which it must have a correspondingly large diameter. However, a large diameter of the bearing point for the bosses of the boom cylinder means that the stroke of the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

boom cylinder and thus the maximum reach of the boom of the self-propelled excavator would be restricted. As this would be too serious a disadvantage, the outer ends of the pin are turned down to a smaller diameter, entailing, however, a new disadvantage in the form of higher manufacturing costs. A further shortcoming arises from the use of cylindrical bearings for the aforementioned upper and lower mountings of the boom cylinder, because removal of the boom cylinders in this embodiment is then only possible if both connections are released and the boom cylinders are drawn out evenly to the side, to prevent tilting. Accordingly, analogous problems also arise on assembly. Although this assembly/removal problem is alleviated if drag bearings are used instead of cylindrical bearings, two new disadvantages emerge. Firstly, the drag bearings have a greater diameter than cylindrical bearings and thus restrict the reach of the boom, as aforementioned, and entail increased costs. Finally, a significant shortcoming of such bearings is that the back and mid boom fall apart when the pin is taken out when they are removed.

This invention is therefore based upon the problem of creating a bearing between construction plant components which can accept the high forces acting upon the components safely, which permits a long boom cylinder stroke and thus maximum boom reach by the plant, which permits simple assembly and removal of all the components, without having to separate the back and mid boom components from each other on removal and reassemble them on installation, and which can be manufactured cost-effectively in general.

This problem is solved inventively by the characteristics of patent claim 1, with characteristics shown in the sub-claims which advantageously develop this solution further.

By making the bearing for the first, second and third components in the form of a pin extending in the direction of their swivelling axis with the same diameter, borne in a bearing tube from which its outer ends protrude, this bearing is practically divided into a common bearing point for the first and second components, and for the back and mid boom in a preferred case, and a bearing point for the third component, the boom cylinder, in the same case. The first and second components are borne alongside each other on the external diameter of the bearing tube and the third component on the outer ends of the pin.

The external diameter of the bearing tube being considerably greater than the external diameter of the pin, the bearing tube accepts the forces from the first and second component more or less by itself and, due to its large external diameter, is also in a position to accept very high forces without any problems.

The pin can have a relatively small external diameter because it has to bear hardly any of the forces from the first and second components. Moreover, the fact that the forces from the third component which it has to accept are only transmitted to its ends protruding from the bearing tube, so that the bending moments acting on the pin are low and the pin can consequently have a small external diameter for this reason too, is favourable to its dimensioning. This again is the requirement for a long boom cylinder stroke, if the boom cylinder constitutes the third component.

In a practical embodiment of the invention with the characteristics of sub-claim 2, the bearing points of the first component, forming the back boom, are located on the middle of the bearing tube and the bearing

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

points of the mid boom, forming the second component, are located alongside it on its outer parts. The associated insertion of the upper end of the back boom into the mid boom means that back boom need no longer have gaps or recesses as in the reverse case, so that it is highly resistant to kinking. This design is very strong overall, as the section of the mid boom inserted over the back boom must then be larger than that of the back boom anyway and its weakening in the vicinity of the accepted back boom is slight, because only the actual angle of movement needs to be unobstructed as a fork.

In a further advantageous embodiment of the invention with the characteristics of sub-claim 3, the bearing points of the first and second components are fitted with guide bushes to reduce wear and noise, and to enhance the ease of movement of the bearing.

Sub-claim 4 represents a proven inventive solution by keeping the external diameter of the mid-section of the pin somewhat smaller than in the two outer sections, in order to minimise the length of the seats having the internal diameter of the bearing tube, which are difficult to manufacture.

In conclusion, the advantages of the invention are that this bearing can accept very high forces acting on the components. Its favourable structural design permits the use of a boom cylinder with a long stroke as the third component, so that the reach of the boom is very long. It also permits simple assembly and removal of all the components, without having to separate the back and mid booms during removal and reassembling them on assembly. It can also be manufactured cost-effectively.

The invention will now be described in more detail using a specimen embodiment of the boom of a self-propelled excavator, with the individual drawings showing:

- Figure 1: A side elevation of the left-hand side of the self-propelled excavator with a multiple boom;
Figure 2: A three-quarter and partial cutaway view of the bearing for connecting the back boom with the mid boom and the boom cylinders acting on the mid boom.

The side elevation in Fig. 1 shows the structure of the multiple boom 1 which is mounted on the revolving superstructure 2 of the self-propelled excavator and attached to its frame 3. The revolving superstructure 2 can be swivelled in a horizontal plane about a vertically aligned axis 4 in relation to the chassis 5. It consists firstly of a back boom 7, designated the first component, the lower end of which is mounted in a drag link 6 on the frame 3. Its upper end is connected to the mid boom 9, designated the second component, by a bearing 8, said bearing 8 being located inside the mid boom 9, immediately below its upper edge, at a certain distance from its rear end. Two hydraulic boom cylinders 10 are provided as third components for executing the swivel movement of the back boom 7. At one end they act upon the bearing 8 and are mounted at the other end on a knuckle 11, which is located on the frame 3 at a certain distance in front of the drag link 6 of the back boom 7. For the sake of integrity in forming the multiple boom 1, a hydraulic adjustment cylinder 13 is added in this area, lying to the rear and thus pulling under load, acting on an articulation pin 12 located on the rear of the mid boom 9 to raise and lower it, the lower end of which hydraulic adjustment cylinder 13 is mounted on a bracket 14 on a fixed pivot 15 in the lower area of the back boom 7.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 4 -

An enlarged three-quarter and partial cutaway view of the bearing is shown in Fig. 2. In this illustration, the back boom 7, including its upper end, takes the form of a kink-proof box section, inserted in the mid boom 9 from below. In order that the mid boom 9 can be swivelled on the back boom 7 to a sufficient extent, it has a downward-opening fork 16 to accept the back boom 7, at least in the vicinity of the bearing 8 (see Fig. 1).

In detail, the bearing 8 is designed so that a pin 18 with an approximately constant diameter extends in the direction of its swivelling axis 17, said pin 18 protruding on either side from the width of the mid boom 9 with the back boom 7 inserted. Within the width of the mid boom 9, the pin 18 is borne in a bearing tube 19, the external diameter 20 of which is considerably greater than the external diameter 21 of the pin 18. In its mid section, the pin 18 has a slightly smaller external diameter 21 than in its outer parts, so that practically only the outer parts of the pin 18 are borne in the bearing tube 19.

The two bearing points 23; 23' of the back boom 7 are located a certain distance apart on the external diameter 20 of the bearing tube 19, its guide bushes 24; 24' being pressed into bores and sliding on the external diameter 20. Both the bearing points 25; 25' of the mid boom 9 are located immediately outside alongside the bearing points 23; 23' and their guide bushes 26; 26', which are also pressed into bores, and also slide on the external diameter 20 of the bearing tube 19.

The bosses 27; 27' of the two boom cylinders 10 form the outer end of the bearing 8, which are placed on the ends of the pin 18 protruding from the width of the mid boom 9. They are also fitted with guide bushes 28; 28' sliding on the external diameter 21 of the pin 18. Rings 30 locked by a threaded connector 29 are applied to either end of the pin 18 to hold the entire bearing 8 in its axial direction.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

List of reference numbers

- 1 Multiple boom
- 2 Revolving superstructure
- 3 Frame
- 4 Axis
- 5 Chassis
- 6 Drag link
- 7 Back boom
- 8 Bearing
- 9 Mid boom
- 10 Boom cylinder
- 11 Knuckle
- 12 Articulation pin
- 13 Adjustment cylinder
- 14 Bracket
- 15 Fixed pivot
- 16 Fork
- 17 Swivelling axis
- 18 Pin
- 19 Bearing tube
- 20 External diameter
- 21 External diameter
- 22 Internal diameter
- 23; 23' Bearing point
- 24; 24' Guide bush
- 25; 25' Bearing point
- 26; 26' Guide bush
- 27; 27' Boss
- 28; 28' Guide bush
- 29 Threaded connector
- 30 Ring

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Patent claims:

1. Bearing between components on a piece of construction plant, particularly on a boom on excavators, loaders, cranes, etc, consisting of a first component, for example a back boom (7), which is articulated to a second component, e.g. a mid boom (9) by the bearing (8) and in which a third component, for example at least one boom cylinder (10) acts on the bearing (8),
characterised in that
 - a) a pin (18) of constant diameter extends in the direction of the swivelling axis (17) of the bearing (8) and is borne in a bearing tube (19), its outer ends protruding from the ends of said bearing tube (19);
 - b) the external diameter (20) of the bearing tube (19) is considerably greater than the external diameter (21) of the pin (18);
 - c) the first component and the second component are borne alongside each other on the external diameter (20) of the bearing tube (19);
 - d) the third component is borne on one or both the outer ends of the pin (18).
2. Bearing in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that the bearing points (23; 23') of the first component are located on the mid part of the bearing tube (19) and the bearing points (25; 25') of the second component alongside them on the outer parts.
3. Bearing in accordance with claims 1 and 2 characterised in that the bearing points (23; 23'; 25; 25') of the first and second component are fitted with guide bushes (24; 24'; 26; 26').
4. Bearing in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that a mid part of the pin (18) has a slightly smaller external diameter (21) than the internal diameter (22) of the bearing tube (19).

BEST AVAILABLE COPY